






solar 

thermal 

wind 

*TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 1 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY FUTURE*

*TO: Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee*

I was hoping to read my testimony today for the committee but I am attending a bid walk through for a proposed PV solar installation Newark Airport in NJ.

I have been working in the solar industry in CT since 2007, most of that time as a project manager supervising commercial and residential solar PV installations. I have personally supervised the installation of 20 commercial PV installations in CT and over 75 residential. Including the solar awnings on the Aetna Atrium building that you can see from the LOB. I would like to convey my experience with PV solar in CT over the past 2 years.

2009 was our busiest year. For most of the year I was supervising 15 installers, both full time employees and temporary workers. In 2010 the number of commercial installations dropped to zero. We let go all of our temp workers. We also let go half of our installers. I kept my three best installers, each had a company vehicle, full set of tools and each could have led a team of 3 installers. Instead they worked together as a team installing residential systems through the year.

At the end of 2010 with no new projects, residential or commercial, being sold in CT even this core workforce was broken up. One went into the service dept, one went to New Jersey to supervise installations there. The third was laid off. I was moved to the engineering dept to help design systems. Most of our work is now in New Jersey and Massachusetts.

So this is the decline in the Solar Industry in CT over the past two years. And these numbers are just for me. My company had 4 project managers in the state at one time, and each has a similar story of what has happened to their installation crews. These are good jobs that CT developed and then let slip away to neighboring states.

CT must get back in the game with sustainable incentives to help solar PV regain its footing in the state. Training people for green jobs is pointless if there are no jobs for them to do. Put people back to work and pass support for Solar Energy.

Best regards,

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